

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 111425Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4055

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJ: EPMG TURNS DOWN CONGO VETERANS

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL APRIL 10 REPORTEDLY BROADCAST A LONG STATEMENT IN AMHARIC IN WHICH THE PMAC REJECTS THE CLAIMS OF ETHIOPIA'S PERENNIALY RESTIVE CONGO VETERANS FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS APRIL 11 IS SILENT ON THIS POINT.

2. WE ASSUME THAT THE FULL TEXT OF THE BROADCAST WILL BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH FBIS. IN ESSENCE, IT PLACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMPENSATION ISSUE ON THE PREVIOUS REGIME AND CLAIMS THE LATTER MISCALCULATED CURRENCY CONVERSION FACTORS. ON THE BASIS OF THIS ALLEGED MISCALCULATION, THE STATEMENT ASSERTS, CONGO VETERANS WERE LEFT WITH THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT ADDITIONAL MONIES WERE DUE TIEM.

3. COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THE DESTABILIZING ROLE WHICH THE CONGO VETERANS' PRESSURE GROUP HAS PLAYED SINCE
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THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1974. WE WOULD BE

SURPRISED IF THE PMAC'S STATEMENT SUMMARIZED ABOVE WERE TO SUCCEED
IN DISABUSING THESE MEN OF THE IDEA THAT THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
ARREARAGES IN PAY AND BENEFITS COMING TO THEM. WE THINK IT MORE
LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BITTERLY CONCLUDE THAT THE DIRG IS JOINING
THE LONG LIST OF THOSE WHOM THEY SUSPECT OF WISHING TO DEFRAUD
THEM OF THE BENEFITS THEY FEEL THEY HAVE EARNED BY SERVING IN
THE UN CONGO OPERATION. WE WILL BE WATCHING FOR ANY EVIDENCE OF
THE IMPACT OF THIS DECISION UPON THESE VETERANS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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